

Camping With Kids - The Ultimate Guide

thecampingman

Discover the joy



Planning & Preparation

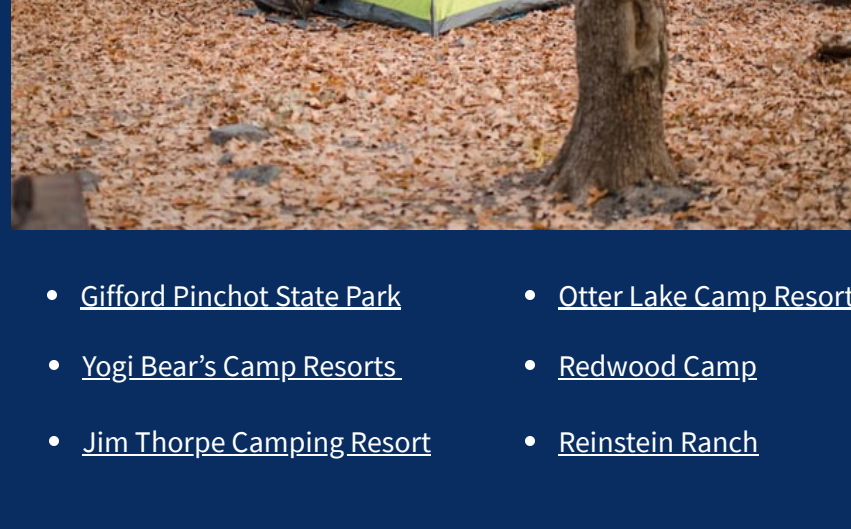
- Get your kids involved in the planning and preparation
- Discuss with them the location before finalizing
- Ask them to make a list of food or snacks they want to eat
- Consider inviting the family of your friends to join you on the trip
- They should have a say on the list of activities during camping
- Check the weather forecast before you leave for the trip



Pick Your Perfect Campsite

- Avoid a campsite located very close to the water
- Pick a campsite that has a bathroom nearby
- If possible, book two sites side by side so that your kids don't get disturbed by the fellow campers
- Start with a single night or two in your local park
- First camping with kids in the camping resorts near your house is a good option
- Avoid booking the campsite that takes more than 3 hours to reach
- Visit the website of KOA Campgrounds for information on campsites

Top Family Parks



- [Gifford Pinchot State Park](#)
- [Yogi Bear's Camp Resorts](#)
- [Jim Thorpe Camping Resort](#)
- [Otter Lake Camp Resort](#)
- [Redwood Camp](#)
- [Reinstein Ranch](#)

Pack The Right Gear

Bin Or Cardboard Boxes



- Use transparent plastic bins or cardboard boxes for packing
- Prepare a list of categories & each category should go in a separate bin or box
- Mark each bin with the name of the item category

Tent



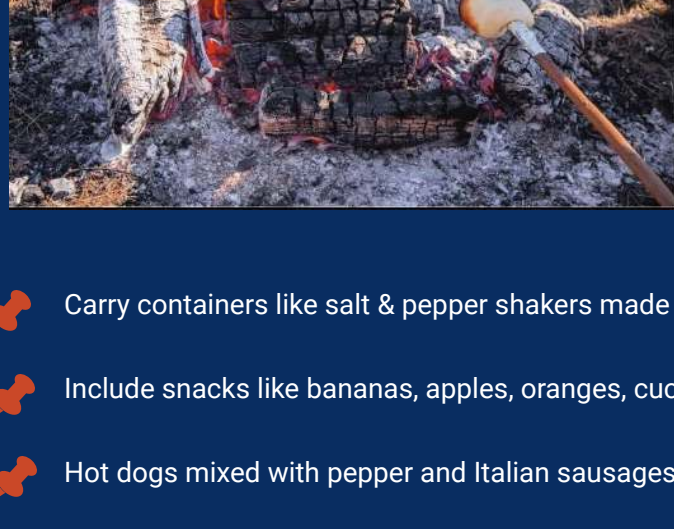
- Pick up a tent spacious enough to accommodate your family
- Consider separate tent for grown-up children
- Consider extra small tent for your kids to play
- Buy a footprint if your tent doesn't have one

Sleeping Arrangement



- Sleeping bag is essential for your kids to stay warm
- Carry air mattress or cots if some kids demand
- Bring baby sleeping bag if you have small baby
- Keep few extra blankets
- Pack the favorite blanket or pillow of your kids
- Be a little bit flexible with bedtimes
- Continue with the bedtime stories if your kids are used to it
- Carry the white noise machine if you use it back home

Food & Beverage

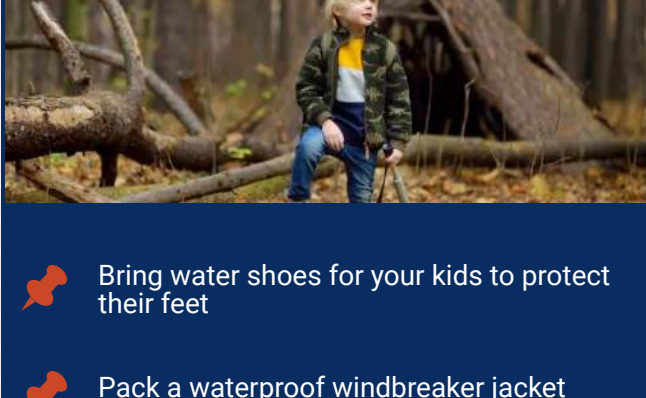


- Cook something fast and straightforward
- Do the mise-en-place as much as possible before leaving
- Write down the ingredients or other materials like spices, tools, seasoning, flavor, utensils, etc
- Don't forget to carry an opener

- Carry containers like salt & pepper shakers made of plastic
- Include snacks like bananas, apples, oranges, cucumber, carrots, raisins, cheese sticks, trail mix, etc
- Hot dogs mixed with pepper and Italian sausages are a great camping meal
- French toast is ultimate favorite of kids
- Piggy burgers with bacon, peaches, and basil
- Mushroom kebabs or grilled fruits like peaches, plums, or even pineapple
- Cover sweet potatoes, beans, carrots, tomatoes, etc. with foil and cook directly on the bed of coal
- No camping is complete without s'mores
- Sweet and dessert
- Pack enough drinking water, canned juices, sports drinks
- Pack some juice powder
- Keep the matches in small container
- Fill 2/3rd of the jugs with water and keep in the freeze to form the ice
- Bring a few packets of chips like Fritos or Doritos

Clothing

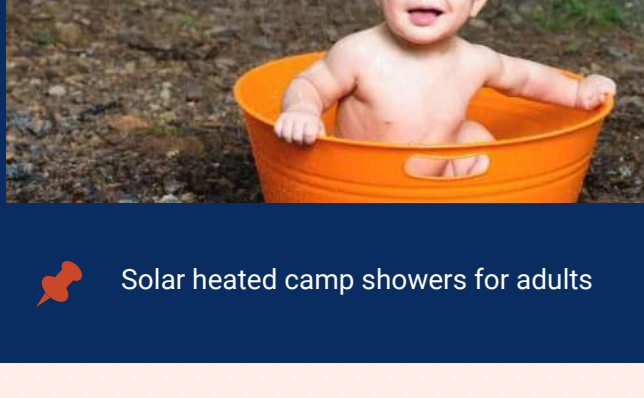
- Pack a rain jacket if there is a forecast for rain
- Dress in layers
- Don't forget to pack a swimsuit & a towel for everyone



- Bring water shoes for your kids to protect their feet
- Pack a waterproof windbreaker jacket
- Couple of pairs of shoes and socks for kids
- Hats for kids
- Bring a hanging clothes organizer

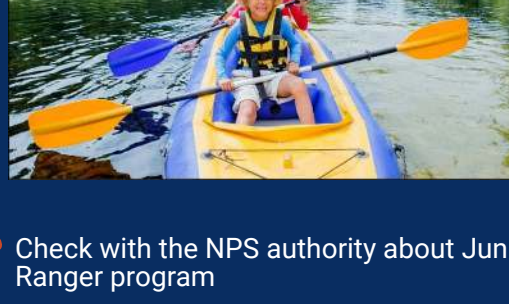
Camp Shower

- A lot of baby wipes
- Flat baby bath or plastic tub for grown-up kids
- Fill the bin with water in the morning and leave it in the sun for warm bath



- Solar heated camp showers for adults

Activities & Entertainment



- Check with the NPS authority about Junior Ranger program
- Involve them in playing some games like identifying flowers, birds, bird's nest, clouds, etc.
- A game of collecting a particular wildflower or sticks that resemble a slingshot or stripe rocks
- Carry a guide or nature viewing guidebooks to identify wild animals, plants, etc.
- Take as many breaks as they want and let them use the binoculars during the break
- Include outdoor activity like geocaching
- Try a fishing or ropes course or even kayaking
- Install SkyView app for your kids to find stars
- Bring a limited number of toys

Best Camping Games



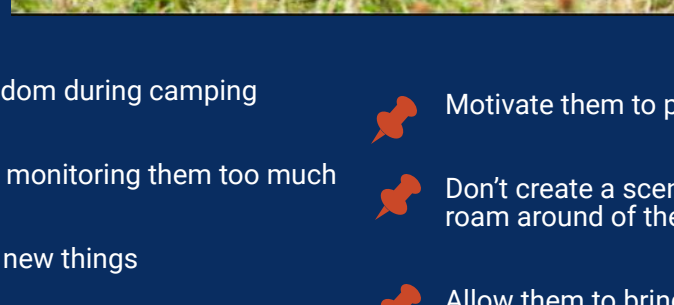
- Nature Tic-Tac-Toe
- Sleeping Bag Race
- Scavenger Hunt
- Mosquito Bites
- Question Ball
- Paper Plate Toss
- Flashlight Hide-and-Seek
- Pass the Water
- Duck, Duck, Splash
- Water Gun Target Practice
- Beach Ball Race
- Add to the Story

Safety First



- Define the rules and restrictions to kids as soon as reach
- Explain to them the limit of areas they can roam around
- Make it clear if they are permitted to visit the campsites nearby
- Let them know if they can go to the bathroom all by themselves
- Brief your kids if they could go to a stream of water or a road nearby, if any
- Kids must maintain a safe distance from the pit of the campfire
- Don't allow them to put anything into the fire without your permission
- Carry a headlamp or flashlight with them at night
- Give a whistle to each of them & ask them to blow if they lose the way
- Carry some glow-in-the-dark stoppers and glow-in-the-dark ropes
- Find out if there is any hotline in the campsite to call 911 in case of emergency
- Put together your first aid kit or buy a ready-made first aid pack
- Include bug spray, sunscreen, tick puller, and medicines for your kids
- Draw the attention of your kids to the potential threat like venomous ivy
- Instruct them clearly not to feed or reach out to the wild animals
- Get your kids wear long trousers tucked into the socks
- Bring the LED camping lanterns with a magnet base

Allow Space To Your Kids



- Grant the kids the freedom during camping
- Avoid commanding or monitoring them too much
- Allow them to explore new things
- Give liberty to take chances or get messy
- Allow your kids to take risks
- Motivate them to push to their limits
- Don't create a scene if they want to sleep or roam around of their own
- Allow them to bring a friend or two if they wish to
- Set a reasonable time limit for the kids to use the phone